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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/534,777	12/20/2005	Franciscus Marinus De Groot	NED-003	1785
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EXAMINER				
KOSACK, JOSEPH R				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1626				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/534,777

Applicant(s)

DE GROOT ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph R. Kosack

Art Unit

1626

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 November 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 7-51, 53 and 54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-12, 15, 20-30, 35-42, 44 and 50 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 7, 13, 14, 16-19, 31-34, 45-49, 51, 53 and 54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 43 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 4, 7-51, 53, and 54 are pending in the instant application.

Amendments

The amendment filed on November 12, 2008 has been acknowledged and has been entered into the application file.

Previous Claim Objections

Claims 1-7, 13-14, 16-19, 31-34, 43, 45-49, and 51-55 were previously objected to for containing elected and non-elected subject matter. The claims still contain non-elected subject matter, and the objection is maintained except for those claims expressly cancelled by the Applicant.

Previous Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-7, 13-14, 16-19, 31-34, 45-49, and 51-55 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicant has traversed the rejection on the grounds that the term "specifiers" is clearly defined, and that the other terms have been incorporated into base claim 4. Applicant has also traversed the rejection on the grounds that specific examples of W, X, C, D, E, and F are recited in claim 14.

The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Firstly, the definition for "specifiers" that the Applicant points to is not an explicit definition. It is an open definition, meaning that the guidance provided for the term does not limit what is covered by the term. The Applicant has inserted the preferred definitions for the other terms into the base claim,

and the rejection is withdrawn with respect to those terms. However, with the extreme breadth that the generic term "specifiers" covers, a representative number of species is required in order to show possession of the generic term to the full scope claimed. Therefore, the rejection is maintained except for those claims expressly cancelled by the Applicant.

Where applicant acts as his or her own lexicographer to specifically define a term of a claim contrary to its ordinary meaning, the written description must clearly redefine the claim term and set forth the uncommon definition so as to put one reasonably skilled in the art on notice that the applicant intended to so redefine that claim term. *Process Control Corp. v. HydReclaim Corp.*, 190 F.3d 1350, 1357, 52 USPQ2d 1029, 1033 (Fed. Cir. 1999). The term "leaving group" in claims 1-7, 13-14, 16-19, 31-34, 45-49, and 51-55 is used by the claim to mean "a drug", while the accepted meaning is "a group that is expelled during a substitution reaction such as halides, sulfonamides, alkoxides, etc...." The term is indefinite because the specification does not clearly redefine the term. The Applicant has not addressed this rejection, and the rejection is maintained except for those claims expressly cancelled by the Applicant.

Claims 4-7 and 13-14 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Applicant has clarified the definition of [O] in the claims, and the rejection is withdrawn.

Claims 45-49 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps.

The Applicant has inserted the essential steps, and the rejection is withdrawn.

Claim 51 was previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Applicant has supplied documents to show that a person of skill in the art would know what the acronyms are, and the rejection is withdrawn.

Claim 52 provided for the use of a compound, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it was unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass.

The claim has been cancelled, and the rejection is withdrawn.

Claim 55 was previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claim has been cancelled, and the rejection is withdrawn.

Previous Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

Claim 52 was previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101.

The claim has been cancelled, and the rejection is withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 7, 13-14, 16-19, 31-34, 43, 45-49, 51, 53, and 54 are objected to for containing elected and non-elected subject matter. The elected subject matter has been identified supra.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 4, 7, 13-14, 16-19, 31-34, 45-49, 51, 53, and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In the instant case, compounds containing specifiers and methods of using them are claimed.

Applicant is reminded of the written description guidelines set out by the USPTO in MPEP 2163:

The written description requirement for a claimed genus may be satisfied through sufficient description of a representative number of species by actual reduction to practice (see i)(A), above), reduction to drawings (see i)(B), above), or by disclosure of relevant, identifying characteristics, i.e., structure or other physical and/or chemical properties, by functional characteristics coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or by a combination of such

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identifying characteristics, sufficient to show the applicant was in possession of the claimed genus (see i)(C), above). See *Eli Lilly*, 119 F.3d at 1568, 43 USPQ2d at 1406.

When a chemical genus is claimed, the written description requirement is normally satisfied with a generic chemical structure that is drawn out such that the core structure is clearly shown. A review of the disclosure contains examples (claim 43) which only show an extremely small and related subset and not the large and extensive claimed genus. While the genus is described by a generic formula in claim 4, the generic formula is not sufficiently detailed to show that the Applicant was in possession of the full scope of the claimed invention at the time of filing. Namely, that there are no explicit definitions of "specifiers" provided within the specification. Additionally, there is little structure/function data provided to show that the Applicant in fact possessed the entire claimed genus at the time of filing. Therefore, the "representative number of species" standard is used to determine whether the claims are adequately described. MPEP 2163 goes on to describe what a "representative number of species" is:

What constitutes a "representative number" is an inverse function of the skill and knowledge in the art. Satisfactory disclosure of a "representative number" depends on whether one of skill in the art would recognize that the applicant was in possession of the necessary common attributes or features of the elements possessed by the members of the genus in view of the species disclosed. For inventions in an unpredictable art, adequate written description of a genus which embraces widely variant species cannot be achieved by disclosing only one species within the genus. See, e.g., *Eli Lilly*. Description of a representative number of species does not require the description to be of such specificity that it would provide individual support for each species that the genus embraces. For example, in the molecular biology arts, if an applicant disclosed an amino acid sequence, it would be unnecessary to provide an explicit disclosure of nucleic acid sequences that encoded the amino acid sequence. Since the genetic code is widely known, a disclosure of an amino acid sequence would provide sufficient information such that one would accept that an applicant was in possession of the full genus of nucleic acids encoding a given amino acid sequence, but not

necessarily any particular species. Cf. *In re Bell*, 991 F.2d 781, 785, 26 USPQ2d 1529, 1532 (Fed. Cir. 1993) and *In re Baird*, 16 F.3d 380, 382, 29 USPQ2d 1550, 1552 (Fed. Cir. 1994). If a representative number of adequately described species are not disclosed for a genus, the claim to that genus must be rejected as lacking adequate written description under 35 U.S.C. 112, para. 1.

As the species described in the specification do not cover the entire genus such that it is a representative sample of the genus, the claims do not meet the written description provision of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Where applicant acts as his or her own lexicographer to specifically define a term of a claim contrary to its ordinary meaning, the written description must clearly redefine the claim term and set forth the uncommon definition so as to put one reasonably skilled in the art on notice that the applicant intended to so redefine that claim term. *Process Control Corp. v. HydReclaim Corp.*, 190 F.3d 1350, 1357, 52 USPQ2d 1029, 1033 (Fed. Cir. 1999). The term "leaving group" in claims 4, 7, 13-14, 16-19, 31-34, 45-49, and 51, 53, and 54 is used by the claim to mean "a drug", while the accepted meaning is "a group that is expelled during a substitution reaction such as halides, sulfonamides, alkoxides, etc...." The term is indefinite because the specification does not clearly redefine the term.

Conclusion

Claims 4, 7, 13-14, 16-19, 31-34, 45-49, and 51, 53, and 54 are rejected. Claims 4, 7, 13-14, 16-19, 31-34, 43, 45-49, and 51, 53, and 54 are objected to.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph R. Kosack whose telephone number is (571)272-5575. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane can be reached on (571)-272-0699. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Joseph R Kosack/
Examiner, Art Unit 1626

/REI-TSANG SHIAO /
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1626